

Kilbourn Reservoir Park Project Update October 22, 2007

Summer rains delayed work on Kilbourn Reservoir Park, but the Milwaukee Water Works hopes temperate weather next spring will enhance the growth of newly planted landscaping on the former site of a water reservoir. The construction site-soon-to-be-park will remain closed this winter to avoid damage to the recently graded soil.

Work began just one year ago on the demolition and removal of the internal structure of the reservoir and renovation of the park with its familiar hill. The underground structure was a seven-sided irregular shape 25 feet deep. When full, it held 21 million gallons of water. The Milwaukee Water Works, on deciding in 2000 to decommission the reservoir, has held regular meetings to gather neighborhood input and suggestions for the park.

As November begins, the contractor for the project will have imported, spread, and compacted nearly 90,000 cubic yards of soils to fill in the great hole. The site has been fully graded and plantings are being completed. Construction of stairways on the east and west sides of the hill and paving of roadways has begun. Technically, the project will be considered substantially completed by the end of the year, but the entire site must be secured and closed to the public for the winter in anticipation of successful landscape growth by spring.



Building the top section of west stairway (Sept. 21, 2007)



View of west stairway (Oct. 12, 2007)